

Qualifications of Deacons (Part one)

1 Tim 3:8-10

Acts 6--Church growing.

People selling off lands and laying the money at apostles' feet.

Apostles in charge of administration and distribution of funds.

Taking care of widows.

Ate up all time receiving applications for help

Screening and distribution of funds and materials.

Preaching the Word and praying neglected.

Acts 6:2-7

Notice:

1. Word, deacon, not used
2. The people chose
3. Apostles appointed
4. Main concern: administration of the special finances in relation to the widows.
5. Benefit: Provide apostles with time needed for prayer and the ministry of Word.

Deacon: diakonia. Servant, minister, ...server of tables.

Main focus—temporal welfare of church

Deacon: one who serves

Bishop: one who oversees.

Historians say-- those who aspired to office of Bishop went through proving time as deacons.

God's way of developing someone for a spiritual position--see how respond to servant-type ministries.

1 Timothy 3:8

Likewise: we've just laid down list of qualifications for the Bishop.

Important that--lay down list of qualifications for deacons.

Everyone can serve.

Not everyone is qualified for certain responsibilities.

Even though person may have passion for specific ministry--degree of accountability.

Burden for ministry--qualify for ministry.

Rom 14:12 James 3:1

Levels of ministry: With different levels of ministry come different levels of stewardship and different levels of accountability.

Luke 12:48

Level one: L1 Low visibility

Level two: L2 Little visibility

Level three: L3 Visibility

Level four: L4 High visibility

We observe a person BEFORE we recruit him for this level of ministry.

Principle of accountability: The higher the level of ministry you go, the more accountability you will experience.

Time, lifestyle, and character more closely observed in a L4 ministry

3:8 Grave: venerable, honorable, honest, worthy of respect and dignity;

Consistent life which invites reverence.

Not only refers to outward

Speaks of inner man—motives, walk with God.

Men of Holy Spirit-wrought gravity and respectability.

not double tongued: says one thing and means another.

Prov 25:11

Not reactive and judgmental. Prov 29:11

Motto not Speak first, then think. Prov 29:20

Not like bull in china closet with words. **James 3:2**

Take their time to think about their words and put a check on spirit.

Not quick to assume negative. James 1:19

Loyal to truth

not given to much wine. Not tarry at wine.

Prov 23:31 Look not thou upon the wine approve, behold, consider, (make to) enjoy, have experience, gaze, (have) respect,

when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, The wine of Canaan red (Gen. 49:11; Is. 63:1-3)

when it moveth itself aright. Wine when in fermentation process.

Don't consider; don't enjoy, don't even gaze at the beverage if it is moving itself aright.

not greedy of filthy lucre; greedy for base gain...

Not attached to money.

1 Timothy 3:9

Mystery: hidden from the unsaved. 1 Cor 2:14

The faith: total embodiment of truth to the Christian.

Doctrinally sound.

Pure: undefiled, clear

Conscience: function of the spirit of man.

Not one person point finger and accuse of wrong-doing not been made right.

All known sin confessed

Higher get in leadership, more visible

More blame receive.

More criticism receive.

1 Timothy 3:10

And let these also first be proved; tried, investigated. Proven

What is the track record of this man in areas of spiritual service?

Matthew 25:21

Most leaders in the Bible first tested as servants

Elisha—served Elijah 7-10 years

Joseph—servant in Egypt 13 years before taking the position of 2nd in command

Moses—40 years tending sheep

Joshua—servant to Moses

David—tending sheep when Samuel found him

let them use the office of a deacon,

Weakens testimony of church when member who has not been proven is made an officer

Use the office : action, work. Not an office where one sits...a deacon must serve.

Let them serve, wait on, care after, see after

being found blameless. Above reproach; *Not to be laid hold of.*

Attitude—approachable, tender, and pliable.

2 Things must measure up:

1. Consistent lifestyle

2. Service.

So What?

What is my response to all of this? These Qualifications are for anyone and everyone who aspires to a position of spiritual leadership.

1. Grave—consistent life which invites respect.

2. Not double-tongued. Always speak truth.

3. Not given to much wine—Relation to alcohol determines level of ministry.

4. Not greedy of filthy lucre—relationship to money.

5. Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience—solidly grounded in doctrine

6. Pure conscience—short sin accounts.

7. Blameless—not one person able point a finger at you and accuse you of wrong-doing that you have not made right.